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OXFORD VACCINE HALTED IN US, UK, S. AFRICA AND BRAZIL

AstraZeneca Plc said it has paused global trials of the Covid-19 vaccine due to an unexplained illness in a study participant

VOLUNTEER GOT SICK AFTER VACCINE SHOT

On Tuesday, a participant in the UK who was administered the vaccine had to be hospitalised after developing transverse myelitis — an inflammatory syndrome that affects the spinal cord and can be caused by viral infections. However, it is not clear whether the syndrome was related to inoculation. It will be confirmed only after a detailed medical review

WATCHDOG STINKER TO SERUM INSTITUTE

- Serum Institute (SII), which has partnered with AstraZeneca to make the vaccine for India, said Indian trials will continue
- As the last-stage trials of the vaccine are on hold, Mysuru's JSS Medical College, awaiting communication from the government, is yet to take a call on continuing the trials | P4,9

1 billion

DOSES OF THE VACCINE WILL BE DEVELOPED BY SERUM INSTITUTE

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

The Light Utility Helicopter during its high-altitude test

LUH passes high-alt Himalayan trials

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

HINDUSTAN Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) indigenously developed Light Utility Helicopter (LUH) demonstrated high-altitude capability in hot and high weather conditions in the Himalayas. Also, the Army version of the helicopter is ready for Initial Operational Clearance.

The HAL, in a statement on Wednesday, said a comprehensive test plan was executed at Leh (3,300 metres above mean sea level - MAMSL) in temperatures up to ISA+32°C which included envelope expansion, performance and flying qualities. "LUH took off from Leh and demonstrated its hot and high hover performance at Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO) Advanced Landing Ground at 5,000 MAMSL. The helicopter also demonstrated its payload capability in Siachen Glacier. During the trials, pilots landed the helicopter at the highest helipads of Amar and Sonam," the HAL stated.

According to Arup Chatterjee, Director (Engineering and R&D), HAL, the performance of the helicopter and its systems are satisfactorily fulfilling users' requirements. P7

LIGHT'S MIGHT

- LUH is a 3-ton, single-engine, highly-agile utility helicopter
- Indigenously designed and developed to meet operational requirements of the Army and IAF
- LUH will replace the ageing fleet of Cheetahs and Chetaks
- The Initial Operational Clearance for the basic LUH IAF variant was accorded by CEMILAC on February 7, 2020

Luncheon meeting between foreign ministers of Russia, India and China today in Moscow before Sino-Indian talks; analysts downbeat on outcome

Trilateral before bilateral

PUSHKAR BANAKAR @ New Delhi

HOURS before the India-China bilateral meeting amid the ongoing tension along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, the foreign ministers of the two countries — S Jaishankar and Wang Yi — will hold a trilateral luncheon meet with their Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov on Thursday.

The announcement of the trilateral was made by the Chinese foreign ministry on Wednesday. Both Jaishankar and Wang are already in Moscow to attend the SCO foreign ministers' meeting.

While the India-China bilateral is scheduled to take place at 5.30 pm IST, given the fresh stand-off on the southern bank of Pangong Tso and the shocking firing by the PLA on Monday, the perception is the meeting could end in a stalemate. Just last week, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Chinese counterpart Wei Fenghe's meeting was inconclusive.

Though Moscow had said upfront it would not intervene between Beijing and New Delhi, it had urged the two countries to use the SCO to resolve their differences. However, experts are not optimistic of any positive outcome from the bilateral meeting. "The SCO is a multilateral forum where no bilateral issues are brought for discussion. However, these are discussed at the sidelines, as it happened between Rajnath Singh and his Chinese counterpart in Moscow. Russia being a close ally of both India and China, certainly would like to see a peaceful resolution of the issue, therefore Putin urging both sides to disengage and de-escalate in private cannot be ruled out. If the situation aggravates, participating countries may opt out the forum," B R Deepak, Sinologist and Chairperson of the Centre for Chinese and South Asian Studies at JNU, said.

Foreign Minister S Jaishankar with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov (left) before their bilateral meeting, in Moscow on Wednesday | TWITTER

Pleasure to meet FM Sergey Lavrov... Excellent talks that reflect our Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. Value our exchanges on the international situation

S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs

Moscow-based political analyst Andrew Korybko echoed Deepak's view, adding that there is nothing Russia can do to bring China and India closer. "In the event that the Chinese and Indian foreign ministers meet on the sidelines of the SCO in Moscow, it would be because India did so out of respect for its Russian hosts, just like when their Defence Ministers met last week. India and China have irreconcilable stances on the LAC," he said, adding that all Moscow can do is to offer a venue.

Korybko was also of the opinion that the meeting would be overshadowed by the recent gunfire on the LAC. "India and China have different interpretations of what happened and who is responsible for violating the bilateral agreement that hitherto prevented any firearm escalation. That escalation placed them on an irreversible trajectory of so-called decoupling, with the 'best case' scenario being that it's 'manageable', whereas the worst case one is a repeat of the 1962 conflict," he said. P9

India dominates Finger 4 heights too

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

The Indian Army has positioned its soldiers on higher peaks in the Finger 4 area on the northern bank of Pangong Tso and fortified its positions using barbed wire in both the north and south banks of the lake in eastern Ladakh.

"We have now repositioned our troops at dominating heights within our area around Finger 4 on the north bank of Pangong Tso," a senior officer confirmed. The Indian side is now able to observe all Chinese movements in and around Finger 4, which was where the flare-up first began in May.

"We have placed barbed wires ahead of our positions all along these areas. PLA troops in the south bank tried to remove them on Monday so as to reach our positions. But we warned them sternly of strong action," a source said.

When the PLA fired bullets into the air for intimidation, "we used megaphones to convey in Mandarin that it will be dealt with sternly. After some time, the Chinese went back. At present, they are about 300 metres away from Indian positions on at least three heights in south Pangong", the source said.

The Chinese have now deployed battle tanks in the Spanggur Gap. "They have around 15-20 tanks near Spangur Gap and are trying to intimidate us," the source said. Also, the Chinese have amassed 5,000-7,000 troops in Moldo, opposite Chushul Sector.

According to sources, the top leadership in China is directly in contact with its military and is coordination all action along the LAC. Meanwhile, the Brigade commanders of both sides met in the Chushul-Moldo area.

SMOKIN'EM OUT

Actors name 30 others; another may be raided

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

RAGINI Dwivedi and Sanjjanaa Galrani, the two actresses arrested in the Sandalwood drug case, have reportedly revealed more than 30 names, which include a prominent actress from the Kannada film industry, sons of politicians and senior bureaucrats, sources said.

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) police interrogated both the actresses separately on Wednesday. While they admitted that they used drugs, they also gave the names of prominent people who were part of the racket, sources said.

"They have given names of over 30 people, some of whom abuse drugs, while others deal in drugs. Names of some of the people are common in both lists. The prominent actress, who has been named, played lead roles in several Kannada movies a few years ago. Sons of a well-known politician, an MP, and some powerful MLAs too have been named. But we don't have conclusive evidence to raid or take legal action against these people. We are working on it," an official said. Family members of some senior bureaucrats too have been named.

Following revelations made by the two, the police are getting ready to raid the house of the prominent actress.

CONTINUED ON: P7

BMC officials demolish 'illegal alterations' at Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut's bungalow at Bandra, Mumbai, on Wednesday | PTI

I have lived the courage, valour and sacrifice of Rani Laxmibai. The sad thing is I am being prevented from coming to my own Maharashtra.

Kangana Ranaut

BMC brings down Kangana's home, Pawar says 'bad timing'

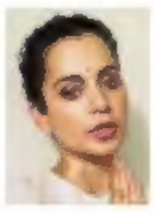
SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

PART of actress Kangana Ranaut's bungalow in Mumbai was demolished by the Shiv Sena-run Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Wednesday, citing illegal alterations.

The Bombay High Court later stayed the demolition, terming the BMC's conduct "malafide" and "deplorable". A division bench of Justices S J Kathawalla and R I Chagla asked why the BMC gave only 24 hours to Ranaut to respond to its stop-work notice and why it took action when she was outside the state.

Kangana tweeted some of the videos and photos of the demolition process. "I am never wrong and my enemies prove again and again this is why my Mumbai is POK now," she tweeted soon after the demolition work began.

The actor, who returned to Mumbai on Wednesday from her home state Himachal Pradesh, alleged the Maharashtra government was targeting her because of her criticism of Shiv Sena.



Meanwhile, supporters of Ranaut and Shiv Sena hurled slogans against each other, while Sena workers waved black flags at the film actor.

While the BJP in Maharashtra supported Ranaut, the NCP, which is part of the government in the state, expressed displeasure over demolition.

NCP chief Sharad Pawar said illegal constructions are not new in Mumbai. "The BMC may have taken the action as per procedure, but the timing was not right," he said.

Maharashtra BJP president Chandrakant Patil said the Sena is unnecessarily targeting the actor. "Sena is chasing Kangana like a fox. They should stop petty politics and concentrate on real issues like Covid-19," Patil said.

Leader of the Opposition in the Maharashtra Assembly Devendra Fadnavis said the state of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj has not seen such a "timid and anti-democracy" government till now.

WILD TRESPASS

Forest dept to 'track' dart race in grasslands

Tyre marks seen in the grasslands of Brahmagiri sanctuary in Kodagu district.

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

A dart race in a reserved forest? The forest department will probe it now. One vehicle is said to have entered the forest on some pretext. And another followed on some other pretext. In no time, more vehicles followed and were seen darting here and there. This dart race was held inside the Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary in Kodagu district last week, according to locals and conservationists.

The tyre marks are clearly seen in the grasslands of the sanctuary. The race was conducted at Puliyat Bane grasslands of Srimangala Wildlife Range and as per locals nearly 10 jeeps took part.

Even as the ground staffers tried to brush the issue under the carpet by taking an apology letter from the racers, the department has decided to investigate the matter after the locals and conservationists intervened.

Bringing vehicles inside forest patches is prohibited.

CONTINUED ON: P5

Department of Health and Family Welfare

World
Suicide Prevention Day
September 10, 2020

Theme : Working together to prevent suicide

Sri B.S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Say Yes to Self Confidence No to Suicide

'Around 8 lakh people every year and 1 person every 40 seconds become the victim of this menace across the world'.

Shri B. Sriramulu, Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare, interacting with Mother and Child in Govt. Hospital

Suicide is preventable and the remedial measures include:

- Strong will power
- Increased Self confidence
- Be away from tobacco, alcohol and drugs
- Enhance ability to find solution to difficult problems
- Contact with good persons
- Positive Thinking
- Seek help from mental health experts when in need

Remember :
An act of momentary hasty decision of person pushes the whole family to irreparable hardships

Don't get disheartened to covid-19 like pandemic, instead be courageous and consult a nearby PHC or psychiatrist at Taluk / District Hospital.

For Information : Visit a nearby Government Hospital or Call free Arogya Sahayavani 104

To safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every Citizen of the Country